

Common Questions about Basilica Baptisms

Q- Do we have to be registered members of the parish to have our child baptized here?

A- Yes, at least one of the parents must be a member since part of the theology of Baptism is welcoming the newly baptized into the parish community in which they will be raised and nurtured in their faith.

Q- Is there any preparation required?

A- Yes, parents are expected to attend a Baptism Preparation Class. The parish offers the class once per month.

Q- What if we have already attended the Preparation Class with another child?

A- If you have attended the class in the last 3 years there is no need to attend again.

Q- Can we attend the Preparation Class here if the Baptism will not take place here?

A- Yes. We can also provide you with proof that you did attend if the church of Baptism requires it.

Q- Do the Godparents have to attend the Preparation Class?

A- Not a requirement, but we would encourage it for any godparents who would like to understand their role and responsibilities better.

Q- I have been asked to be a Godparent. Do I need the class?

A- If the church of Baptism requires it, you can certainly attend the Basilica's preparation class even if you are not a member here and we can provide you with proof of attendance if you need it.

Q- When are Baptisms celebrated?

A- We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism once per month at a Mass on Sunday afternoon in the church beginning at 1:30pm (except in Advent and Lent).

Q- Can we have a "private" baptism?

A- There is nothing "private" about the Sacrament of Baptism. Today's Catholic teaching on this sacrament focuses strongly on the communal nature of Baptism as the Initiation into the Church Community. It only

makes sense, then, to have the church community present to receive and pledge their support of the newly baptized.

Q- We have a friend or relative who is a priest or deacon. We would like him to baptize our child. Is that allowed?

A- We would welcome them to participate in the Baptism Celebration and be the one who actually baptizes **your** child.

Q- What time should we arrive?

A- We suggest you arrive by at least 1:15 pm, get settled in your reserved pews and be ready to begin by being in the back of the church by 1:25pm

Q- Where can we park?

A- There is plenty of parking for you and your guests on the street, or Basilica parking lots, under the Hwy 94 Freeway, or across the street in the MCTC parking ramp at no charge.

Q- Can we take pictures during the ceremony?

A- Yes, pictures are encouraged.

Q- How many godparents do we need?

A- The question about appropriate godparents and their role will be discussed at the Baptism Preparation Class, but the church's teaching on godparents is that one male or one female sponsor/godparent or one of each sex is required. At least one of the godparents must be at least 16 years of age, a fully initiated Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed, and Eucharist) in good standing with the Catholic Church. Since the role of the godparents is to help the newly baptized lead a Christian life and together with the parents, model a life that professes Christian Faith, the godparent should be strong in their own faith.

Q- What if we have someone in mind as a godparent and they are not Catholic?

A- As long as there is at least one Catholic godparent, a baptized person who belongs to another Christian denomination, may be admitted as a witness to baptism and function along with the Catholic godparent on the day of Baptism and throughout the faith life of the child.

Q- What if we select someone as a godparent and they cannot be at the actual Baptism Mass?

A- Anyone can “stand in” as a proxy for the actual Godparent. The actual Godparent’s name would still be the one on the Baptismal Certificate, and they would still assume the duties as the life-long Godparent.